

Alexander's Building  
826 Main Street  
Boise  
Ada County  
Idaho

HABS No. ID-4

HABS,  
ID,  
1-BOISE,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

EXAMINED  
RECEIVED

## ALEXANDER BUILDING

HABS No. ID-4

Location: Northeast corner, Ninth and Main Street  
(826 Main Street), Boise, Ada county, Idaho.  
USGS Boise North Quadrangle, Universal  
Traverse Mercator Coordinates: 11.564285.  
4829360.

Present Owner: Boise Redevelopment Agency, 711½ Bannock  
Street, P.O. Box 987, Boise, Idaho 83701.

Present Occupant:  
and use Unoccupied, will be retained and renovated  
for retail and office use.

Sinificance: Rendered in the Second Renaissance Revival  
Style, the Alexander Building is the only  
remaining Boise commercial building with a  
facade of white terra cotta veneer. The  
high quality of design and attention to  
detail are enhanced by its excellent state  
of preservation.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Begun 1924, completed in 1925.
2. Architects: Tourtellotte and Hummel.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Alexander building was originally built for, and owned by, Moses Alexander, (Warranty Trustees Deed March 18, 1924. No. 110268 recorded March 31, 1924, in Book 167). In 1976 the Boise Redevelopment Agency acquired the building. Reference is Office of Ada County Clerk-Recorder, Records Department.
4. Original plans and construction: The original drawings are available at the architect's office of Hummel, Jones, Miller and Hunsucker formally Tourtellette and Hummel.
5. Alteration and additions: In 1955 the deeply indented Main Street entrance was reduced to a minimum, its display island eliminated; the glass marquee was modernized, and signed with block lettering as were the mezzanine windows.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Alexanders' Men's Store was founded by Moses Alexander, who served as mayor of Boise for two terms and governor of Idaho for two terms. He holds the distinction of being the first Jewish governor in the nation. The Alexander family still operates their company.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination form. Prepared by Don Hibbard, Architectural Historian, Idaho State Historical Society, 610 North Julia Davis Drive, Boise, Idaho.

Urban Conservation and Adaptive Re-Use Analysis, prepared for Boise Redevelopment Agency and on file in its offices. Gage Davis and Associates, Boulder, Colorado, September, 1978.

Warranty Trustees Deed, March 18, 1924, Ada County Clerk-Recorder, Records Department.

William F. Simon, president M. Alexander, Inc., (great grandson of Moses Alexander) interviewed 5/1/80. Company General Office is located at 910 West Amity, Boise, Idaho.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Historic Boise, An Introduction to the Architecture of Boise, Idaho, 1863-1938. Text by Arthur A. Hart. Published by Boise City Historic Preservation Commission, 1979, as a part of the Boise City Historic Preservation Plan. Library of Congress Card No. 79-91082.

"Idaho Daily Statesman," April 1, 1924, p. 5, c. 1

"Idaho Heritage Magazine," published by Idaho Heritage, Inc., 513 No. 13th Street, Boise, Idaho, 83702. Volume 1, Number 1, p. 24.

Prepared by Patricia Rowse  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
July 1980

from survey form compiled by  
C. Wayne Hunsucker, AIA  
Boise, Idaho  
May, 1980

PART II . ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. Exterior: The Alexander building is a two story plus basement corner structure, three by seven bays with white terra cotta veneer, rendered in the Second Renaissance Revival Style. Both facades have centered inset entryways and plate glass windows. Doric piers demarcate the first story bays. The building terminates with a denticulated cornice with a parapet accented at the corners. The name "Alexander" is inscribed in the frieze and raised shields with the letter "A" decorate the parapet. There have been no additions or alterations except for the addition of the mezzanine. The over-all dimensions are 50 ft. X 122 ft.
- B. Interior: First floor and second floor are open retail space with small storage rooms along north walls. Cabinets along east wall of basement are original. (see photographs).

PART III. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

USGS map with building identified.

Prepared by Patricia L. Rowse  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
July 1980

from survey form compiled  
by C. Wayne Hunsucker, AIA  
Boise, Idaho  
May, 1980

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Boise Redevelopment Agency in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to mitigate the adverse effect of the regional retail center in Boise, Idaho. John A. Burns, AIA and Emily J. Harris were the HABS project coordinators. The written data was prepared in the HABS office by Patricia Rowse in July 1980 from the survey form compiled by C. Wayne Hunsucker, AIA, Boise, Idaho. Photographs were taken by Duane Garrett in March 1974 and 1980.

ALEXANDER BUILDING

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Addendum to

Alexander's Building (Alexander's Store)  
826 Main Street  
Boise  
Ada County  
Idaho

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